This Department in the Action Taken Note sent in July, 2007 did not agree with the conclusion drawn by the Audit, as all the paddy offered by the farmers was required to be procured as per the Government's policy on Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations. The milling capacity in the State has improved substantially to 7.42 lakh tonnes per month over the years. These efforts have led to reducing dependence for rice on Punjab and Haryana and also led to increase in milling capacity and increase in employment generation in the State. Audit has accepted the above position, as it had made no further comments.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Functioning of consumer courts

3303. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of consumer courts which are working in different States and the details of data with regard to pending, disposed off and appealed cases against the order to the Supreme and High Courts after National Appellate Tribunal; and

(b) whether there is any demand for more consumer courts and additional National Appellate Tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) A total of 35 State Commissions and 621 District Fora have been established in different States/UTs. The details of the data as informed by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), which has administrative control over all State Commissions as per provisions of Consumer Protection Act with regard to the filing, disposal and pending of cases is enclosed as Statement-I and II collectively. (*See* below) :

As regards Appeal filed against the order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission before the Supreme Court and the High Court, the data is not available with NCDRC.

(b) In some of the districts, additional District Fora are also functioning. Additional Benches of the State Commissions are functioning in the following States:

(a)	Gujarat	-	03 Additional Benches
(b)	Maharashtra	-	Circuit Bench at Nagpur & Aurangabad
(c)	Uttar Pradesh	-	01 Additional Bench
(d)	West Bengal	-	01 Additional Bench
(e)	Madhya Pradesh	-	01 Additional Bench (non-functional)

Section 9 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides that a Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, to be known as the "District Forum", be established by the State Government in each district of the State by notification. It further provides that the State Government may, if it deems fit, establish more than one District Forum in a district.

In other words, the State Government can establish more than one District Forum in the district. Some of the State Governments have established more than one District Forum in a district, where the institution of cases are more.

Presently, in the National Commission 5 Benches are functioning. However, a proposal for creation of ad-hoc Benches in the National Commission has been received.

Statement-I

Details of Cases Filed/Disposed of/Pending in the National Commission and State Commissions

(Update on 10. 12.2009)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Cases filed since inception	Cases disposed of since inception	Cases Pending	Status as On
1	2	3	4	5	6
National Commission		61989	54286	7703	30.11.2009
1	Andhra Pradesh	24506	21218	3288	30.09.2009
2	A & N Islands	42	38	4	31.01.2008
3	Arunachal Pradesh	52	44	8	31.07.2009
4	Assam	2277	1331	946	31.10.2009
5	Bihar	13257	9604	3653	30.09.2009
6	Chandigarh	10402	9503	899	31.10.2009
7	Chhattisgarh	5776	5171	605	31.10.2009
8	Daman & Diu and DNH	29	29	0	30.09.2008
9	Delhi	29943	28793	1150	31.10.2009
10	Goa	2101	1986	115	31.10.2009
11	Gujarat	31767	26450	5317	31.10.2009
12	Haryana	37082	24595	12487	31.10.2009
13	Himachal Pradesh	6430	5808	622	31.10.2009
14	Jammu & Kashmir	5754	5004	750	30.09.2009
15	Jharkhand	4097	3038	1059	31.07.2009
16	Karnataka	31031	29280	1751	31.10.2009
17	Kerala	22438	20249	2189	31.10.2009
18	Lakshadweep	16	15	1	31.10.2009
19	Madhya Pradesh	33609	30301	3308.	31.10.2009

1	2	3	4	5	6
20	Maharashtra	48261	30579	17682	30.09.2009
21	Manipur	139	96	43	30.09.2008
22	Meghalaya	238	152	86	30.06.2009
23	Mizoram	162	149	13	30.11.2009
24	Nagaland	94	64	30	31.12.2006
25	Orissa	18861	11609	7252	30.09.2009
26	Puducherry	885	833	52	31.10.2009
27	Punjab	22766	17446	5320	30.09.2009
28	Rajasthan	42046	38793	3253	31.10.2009
29	Sikkim	35	31	4	30.09.2009
30	Tamil Nadu	20784	17894	2890	31.10.2009
31	Tripura	1172	1158	14	31.10.2009
32	Uttar Pradesh	56649	23263	33386	31.10.2009
33	Uttarakhand	3624	2919	705	31.10.2009
34	West Bengal	13273	12754	519	31.08.2009
	TOTAL	489598	380197	109401	

Statement-II

Details of Cases filed/disposed of/pending in District Fora

(Update on 10.12.2009)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Cases filed since inception	Cases disposed of since inception	Cases Pending	Status as On
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	176228	171671	4557	30.09.2009
2	A & N Islands	330	301	29	31.03.2006
3	Arunachal Pradesh	300	262	38	31.07.2009
4	Assam	13084	11730	1354	30.06.2009
5	Bihar	75682	64784	10898	30.09.2009
6	Chandigarh	39353	38332	1021	31.10.2009
7	Chhattisgarh	29639	27065	2574	31.10.2009
8	Daman & Diu and DNH	129	103	26	30.09.2008

1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Delhi	204398	189858	14540	30.09.2009
10	Goa	5840	5269	571	30.09.2009
11	Gujarat	145292	123005	22287	30.09.2009
12	Haryana	186215	167025	19190	31.10.2009
13	Himachal Pradesh	49922	47061	2861	31.10.2009
14	Jammu & Kashmir	20792	18855	1937	31.12.2007
15	Jharkhand	30455	28105	2350	31.07.2009
16	Karnataka	125022	120859	4163	31.10.2009
17	Kerala	162664	154457	8207	31.10.2009
18	Lakshadweep	58	55	3	31.10.2009
19	Madhya Pradesh	144909	132513	12396	31.10.2009
20	Maharashtra	221243	203279	17964	30.09.2009
21	Manipur	1037	1012	25	30.09.2008
22	Meghalaya	322	308	14	31.03.2007
23	Mizoram	2065	2011	54	31.12.2006
24	Nagaland	246	205	41	30.6.2006
25	Orissa	79481	74641	4840	30.09.2009
26	Puducherry	2641	2469	172	31.10.2009
27	Punjab	122924	117717	5207	30.09.2009
28	Rajasthan	237744	219215	18529	31.10.2009
29	Sikkim	249	231	18	30.09.2009
30	Tamil Nadu	91321	82795	8526	31.10.2009
31	Tripura	2015	1807	208	30.09.2008
32	Uttar Pradesh	484926	403323	81603	31.10.2009
33	Uttarakhand	30946	28907	2039	31.10.2009
34	West Bengal	73094	67842	5252	31.08.2009
	TOTAL	2760566	2507072	253494	

Effects of rise in prices of essential items

3304. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to some reports per capita intake of calories by the poor has further gone down following the unprecedented rise in prices of essential commodities;